

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

Radio Address – MEGAs and MA trip

Release Date: April 21, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

Everyday, there are reports in Michigan reflecting the challenges of a manufacturing economy that is shifting jobs to low-cost countries. Despite the manufacturing crisis in Michigan and in America, let me describe some encouraging news. From Northern Michigan to Southeast Michigan to the West side and all the way back to Gratiot County, right smack in the middle of the state, this past week was full of encouraging news about job creation in Michigan.

Several companies announced that with our assistance, they are expanding their operations, creating and retaining hundreds of jobs that would have otherwise gone to other states. For example, a business called Hess Industries is moving one of its divisions from Indiana to Niles, Michigan, in Berrien County – an expansion that will create more than 130 new jobs.

Another great example is Otsego Paper Company, which chose to expand in Michigan instead of in the State of New York. They're adding more than a hundred new jobs just north of Kalamazoo.

Both of these employers chose Michigan for two reasons. First of all, they know that Michigan is committed to their success. We want them to succeed, we're working every day to help them succeed, and we'll do whatever it takes to ensure that success for their employees and their families.

The second reason is that Michigan has so much more to offer than just financial assistance from the state. We have the best workers in the world. On a level playing field, no one can out-compete our Michigan workforce.

And we're taking action at the state level to make that workforce stronger than ever, by providing job training assistance, and also by giving our next generation of workers – our students – the skills they need to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Michigan has so much to offer, and I'm taking that message on the road. Recently, I was in Chicago, pitching bioscience firms on why Michigan is the best place in the nation for them to expand. And in the next few days, I'm headed to Massachusetts, where I'll meet with Boston-area companies, to encourage them to look to Michigan.

No one knows better than we do in Michigan that the challenge our economy is experiencing requires action. Our economic challenge can and will be met with an aggressive, specific plan and relentless execution of it.

From a \$2 billion 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jobs Fund to our \$600 million in tax cuts for manufactures to our world-class workforce, Michigan right now has an outstanding strategy and opportunity to attract new employers. This is our moment. And from Illinois to Massachusetts, to Germany and Japan, I am committed to going anywhere and doing anything to bring those employers to communities all across our great state.

Thank you for listening. [466]